TERROR TALES

APRIL 1978

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in

FANGS of HORROR

FEATURING

AN EXPLOSION OF MACABRE HORROR IN

The SPIDER

STRANGE AND BIZARRE TERROR IN

—the SEVEN SKULLS

THINGS OF EVIL

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Honor House Dept. 472 DR 72 **Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563**

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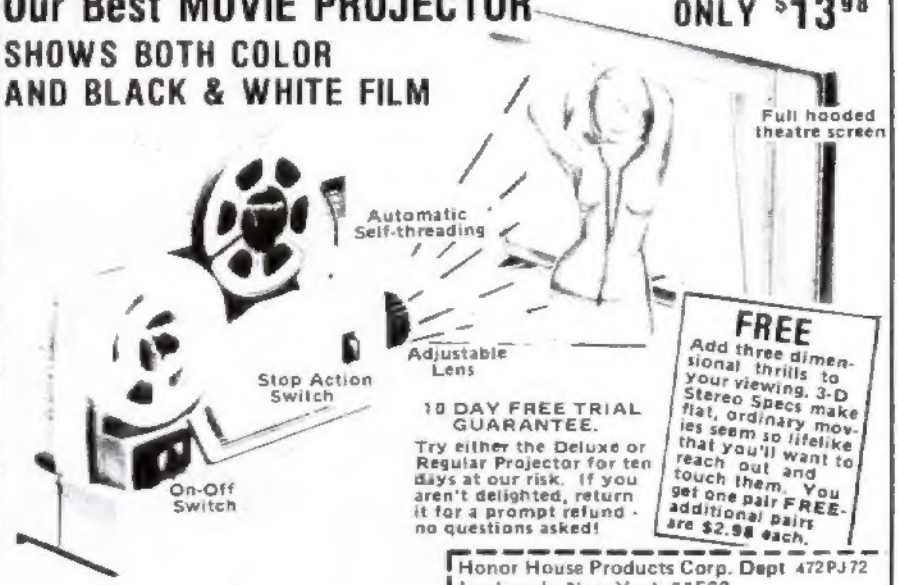

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Add three dimensional thrills to your viewing. 3-D Stereo Specs make flat, ordinary movies seem so lifelike that you'll want to reach out and touch them. You get one pair FREE - additional pairs are $2.98 each.

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Honor House Products Corp. Dept 472PJ72
Lynbrook, New York 11563

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☐ 6. DEVELOP STRONG, SPEEDY LEGS—25¢
☐ 7. IMPROVE ATHLETIC ABILITY—25¢

☐ CHECK HERE for all 7—and enclose only $1

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Dan Lurie "Molder of Champions"

TERROR TALES

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FANGS OF HORROR

THE PLACE WAS CALLED WEREWOLF CASTLE, AND ON THIS NIGHT THERE WAS A LIGHT IN ONE OF THE CASTLE WINDOWS...
AND NOT FAR AWAY WERE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE ON THEIR HONEYMOON.
LOOK, JOYCE, A SIGN AHEAD! NOW MAYBE WE CAN FIND OUT WHERE WE ARE!
I HOPE SO! I'M A TIRED AND HUNGRY GIRL!
HA HA! JUST LOOK AT THAT! WEREWOLF CASTLE! OF ALL THE NAMES! THIS WE'VE GOT TO SEE!
WEREWOLF CASTLE
UGH - I DON'T LIKE THAT NAME! AND HOW DO WE KNOW THEY'LL TAKE US IN FOR THE NIGHT?
OF COURSE THEY WILL! THERE IS A LIGHT ON! THESE PEOPLE ARE VERY HOSPITABLE!
YOU AND YOUR CRAZY IDEAS, MARK! STRANGERS LIKE US FORCING OURSELVES ON PEOPLE JUST BECAUSE WE THINK THEY WON'T TURN US AWAY!
HO-HO! I'LL BET ANYTHING IT'S OWNED BY A POVERTY STRICKEN BARON OR SOMETHING, WHO'S RUNNING IT AS AN INN!
ALL OUT FOR WEREWOLF CASTLE! SEE, SOMEONE IS OPENING THE POOR ALREADY!
THIS ATMOSPHERE IS SO CREEPY! UGH! WELL, MAYBE I'LL FEEL BETTER AFTER A NICE HOT MEAL!

AS THE ANCIENT DOOR CREAKS OPEN.
HELLO! CAN YOU PUT US UP FOR THE NIGHT!?
COME IN, PLEASE! WELCOME TO WEREWOLF CASTLE!
FOLLOW ME! THE BARON AND BARONESS WILL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU! WE VERY SELDOM GET STRANGERS HERE!
GOOD EVENING! I AM THE BARONESS GOTHA!
AND I AM BARON GOTHA! GLAD YOU STOPPED BY!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
COME, MY DEAR, I KNOW YOU MUST BE TIRED! I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM!
GO AHEAD, JOYCE! I'LL STAY AND CHAT WITH THE BARON FOR A FEW MINUTES!
SO YOU FIND OUR CASTLE INTERESTING, MR. HANSON?
I CERTAINLY DO! WEREWOLVES, OF ALL THINGS! I'VE HEARD SO MANY STORIES...
SOME OF THOSE STORIES ARE QUITE TRUE! IN FACT, A WEREWOLF USED TO LIVE IN THIS VERY CASTLE!
THE CASE IS LISTED HERE IN THE HISTORY OF THE GOTHA FAMILY! YOU SEE, THE WEREWOLF WAS ONE OF MY ANCESTORS! IT SHOULD MAKE PLEASANT READING, IF YOU CAN'T SLEEP!

MEANTIME, ON ANOTHER FLOOR IN THE OLD CASTLE...
THANK YOU, BARONESS, YOU'RE VERY KIND!
YOU'RE PERFECTLY WELCOME, MY DEAR! WE'RE SO PLEASED TO HAVE YOU!
SLEEP WELL! AND IF YOU SHOULD HEAR STRANGE NOISES, DON'T BE ALARMED! IT WILL (CHUCKLE) ONLY BE THE BATS IN THE OLD DUNGEON!
AS JOYCE HANSON PREPARES FOR BED, SHE HAS A STRANGE SENSE OF FORBODING, THE CASTLE SEEMS TO BREATHE AROUND HER....
B-BATS! DUNGEONS! UGH! NOW WHY DID SHE HAVE TO SAY THAT! THIS PLACE IS BAD ENOUGH AS IT IS!
OOOO! THE SHEETS ARE SO DANK AND CLAMMY! I'M SO TIRED, I'M AFRAID I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY AWAKE UNTIL MARK COMES UPSTAIRS! YIIIE! THE BED'S MOVING!
THE BED SWINGS THROUGH AN OPENING IN THE WALL THROWING THE TERRIFIED WOMAN INTO A PLACE OF HORROR! IN A DIM LIGHT SHE SEES SKULLS LEERING AT HER...
W-WHERE AM I? WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO ME? HELP-HELP! MARK HELP ME!

AT THAT MOMENT SOMETHING FLITS FROM A WINDOW HIGH ON THE CASTLE WALL! A WEIRD TRANSFORMATION HAS COME OVER THE BARONESS!
EVERYTHING IS WORKING OUT JUST AS WE PLANNED! NOW FOR THE BUSINESS OF THE NIGHT!
WHAT LUCK THAT THOSE TWO FOOLS STOPPED HERE TONIGHT! NOW THE BARON AND I CAN BE FREE TO DIE LIKE OTHER PEOPLE!
BUT BEFORE WE DO, WE'LL HAVE ONE LAST FLING! BUT WHAT'S THE BARON STILL WITH THE MAN FOR? HE KNOWS THE GIRL IS FOR HIM! THE MAN IS FOR ME!
BUT THE BARON IS LEAVING HIS GUEST...
EXCUSE ME, HANSON, I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING OUTSIDE!
SURE, BARON! I THINK I'LL JOIN MY WIFE! GOOD NIGHT!
FOOL! KNOW NOW THAT MY HUSBAND IS THE WEREWOLF - AND HE'S AFTER YOUR WIFE NOW!
AND YOU ARE MINE NOW!
SO BEHIND THE GRIM FACADE OF THE CASTLE THE SCREAMING BEGINS! BUT MARK HANSON IS POWERLESS AGAINST THE VAMPIRE...
AHA - MY TEETH SINK EASILY INTO YOUR THROAT!

MEANWHILE...
WHILE THE BARONESS IS ENTERTAINING HERSELF, I HAVE MY OWN WORK!
I DEMAND TO KNOW THE MEANING OF THIS OUTRAGE!
YOU DEMAND, EH? BUT I AM GIVING THE ORDERS NOW - AND YOU ARE COMPLETELY IN MY POWER!
BEFORE THE EYES OF THE ASTONISHED AND TERRIFIED GIRL, THE BARON TAKES ON THE LOATHSOME FORM OF A WEREWOLF...
N-NO PLEASE! STAY AWAY FROM ME! DON'T- AHHHHH-
NO USE, MY DEAR! ALL THOSE WHO VISIT WEREWOLF CASTLE MUST SUFFER THE SAME FATE!
THE MOMENT YOU PEOPLE TOOK THE WRONG ROAD TONIGHT - AND IT WAS THE WRONG ROAD, AS YOU'LL ADMIT NOW - YOU WERE BOTH DOOMED! THIS HAD TO HAPPEN!
AAAAAAAH - HELP! MARK, HELP!
THE BARONESS IS TAKING GOOD CARE OF YOUR HUSBAND! SHE IS A VAMPIRE AS YOU WILL SOON BE! NOW...
THE SCREAMS GROW LOUDER AND LOUDER! THE SOUNDS OF A MAN AND WOMAN IN ANGUISH! ONLY THE CASTLE KNOWS HOW MANY TIMES, DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES, IT HAS HEARD THE SAME SOUNDS OF DOOM...

FINALLY THE HORRIBLE SCREAMS DIE AWAY...THE SUN BREAKS THROUG THE CLOUDS TO FORM A BLOODY HALO IN THE EAST!
IN THE DUNGEON, JOYCE HANSON SWIMS UP FROM A DEEP SLUMBER! SHE STARES AROUND AT HER GRIM SURROUNDINGS WITHOUT REMEMBRANCE OF THE NIGHT'S TERRIBLE EVENTS...
OWW! MY THROAT... SO SORE! HOW DID I GET HERE?
A MOMENT LATER...
MARK DARLING, WHAT HAPPENED TO US? I-I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING! IT JUST SEEMS THAT I HAD A HORRIBLE DREAM!
I DON'T KNOW, EITHER! THE LAST THING I REMEMBER I WAS IN THE STUDY AND THE BARON WAS LEAVING! BUT WAIT...WHERE ARE THEY?
MARK HANSON AWAKENS IN THE STUDY, WITH ONLY A HAZY NOTION OF WHAT THE NIGHT HAS BROUGHT! BUT HE KNOWS ONE THING-THAT HE MUST FIND HIS WIFE AT ONCE...
I-I MUST HAVE SLEPT DOWN HERE ALL NIGHT! JOYCE! WHERE IS MY WIFE? I M-MUST FIND HER AT ONCE!
BEHIND THEM...
HEE-HEE-HEE! NO USE LOOKING FOR THE BARON AND BARONESS! THEY WON'T BE COMING BACK! EVER! YOU'RE THE NEW TENANTS OF WEREWOLF CASTLE!
US!
YES, YOU! YOU ARE NOW A WEREWOLF, AND YOUR WIFE IS A VAMPIRE! AS THE GOTHAS WERE! YOU WILL REMAIN THAT WAY UNTIL SOMEONE ELSE STOPS HERE, AND YOU TREAT THEM AS YOU WERE TREATED! YOU HAD BETTER-(CHUCKLE) HOPE THAT IT IS SOON!
HEE-HEE! THAT'S THE STORY, MY DEARS! NOT PRETTY, IS IT? AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, THEN JUST GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF! WEREWOLF CASTLE IS STILL WAITING! AND NOW I MUST GO TOO, FOR THERE IS A CORPSE WAITING FOR THIS SHROUD!

THE DEADLY CORPSE

ANDREW GRANGER WAS ONE WEEK DEAD. BUT NOTHING COULD KEEP HIM LYING IN HIS GRAVE... NOTHING EXCEPT A BOOK THAT CONTAINED THE FEARFUL SECRET OF... **RAISING THE DEAD!**

LATE ONE AUTUMN DAY, CHARLES VENABLE TURNED UP THE PUDDLE-FILLED DRIVEWAY OF A NEGLECTED ESTATE. THE HOME OF CARL GRANGER!

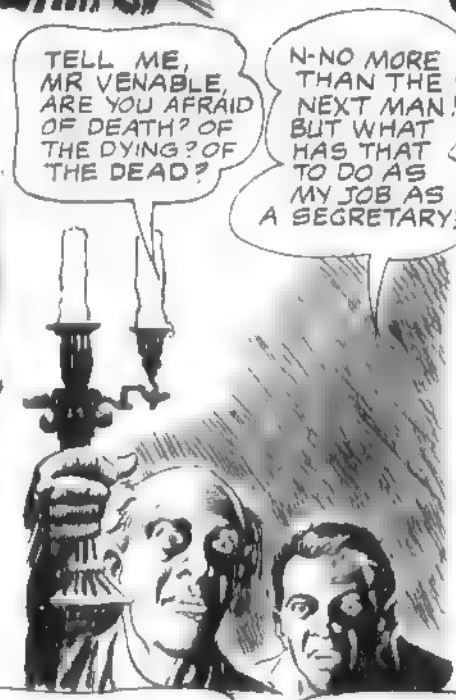
EVERY THING ABOUT THE PLACE LOOKED **DEAD!** THE GROUNDS, THE MANSION, THE STAINED MARBLE TERRACE, EVERYTHING

...THEY'VE LET EVERYTHING GO TO RUIN... **WHY?**

CHARLES VENABLE SOON FOUND SOMETHING HERE THAT REVOLTED HIM! SOMETHING ABNORMALLY EVIL...
IT EVEN SMELLS BAD! I OUGHT TO TURN AROUND AND GO BACK!
KNOCK KNOCK

BUT-- CHARLES VENABLE KNOCKED ON THE THICK DOOR AND WAS ADMITTED!
YOU MUST BE MY NEW SECRETARY! COME IN! PLEASE EXCUSE THE WAY THIS PLACE LOOKS!
RATHER NEGLECTED, I'D SAY!

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? THE THINGS OF THE MATERIAL WORLD DO NOT COUNT! LET IT ROT! THIS WAY, PLEASE!

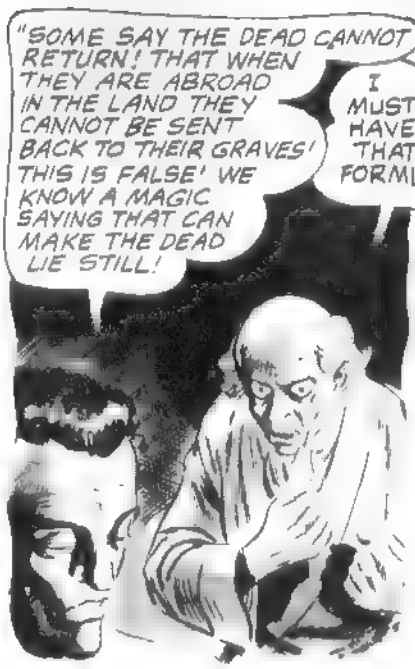

TELL ME, MR VENABLE, ARE YOU AFRAID OF DEATH? OF THE DYING? OF THE DEAD?
N-NO MORE THAN THE NEXT MAN! BUT WHAT HAS THAT TO DO AS MY JOB AS A SECRETARY?

YOU'LL SEE! YOU MUST BE PREPARED FOR MANY STRANGE THINGS! THIS WAY, PLEASE... TO MY STUDY!

Y-YOUR STUDY? W-WHAT ARE THOSE?
CORPSES! I USE DEAD MEN IN MY RESEARCH! DID THE AGENCY TELL YOU I NEED A MAN WHO CAN READ SANSKRIT?

I MUST HAVE CERTAIN PASSAGES TRANSLATED TO COMPLETE MY STUDIES! HERE... PLEASE TRANSLATE FROM THIS BOOK!

WHY, T-THIS BOOK... IT... IT'S ABOUT BRING NG THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE!
AND VICE VERSA! PLEASE READ ALOUD!


"SOME SAY THE DEAD CANNOT RETURN! THAT WHEN THEY ARE ABROAD IN THE LAND THEY CANNOT BE SENT BACK TO THEIR GRAVES! THIS IS FALSE! WE KNOW A MAGIC SAYING THAT CAN MAKE THE DEAD LIE STILL!
I MUST HAVE THAT FORMULA!

I MUST HAVE IT, YOU HEAR? IT'S SOME-WHERE IN THIS BOOK!
WHY DO YOU NEED A MAGIC FORMULA FOR RETURNING THE DEAD TO THEIR GRAVES?

THERE! YOU HEAR IT? THAT SLITHERING SOUND ALONG THE HALLWAY?
SSSSSSS
YES! WHAT IS IT?

I HEAR IT EVERY NIGHT! I'M AFRAID TO LOOK!
I'LL OPEN THE DOOR AND SEE WHAT IT IS!
SSSSHHH

NO! NOT YET! NOT UNTIL I HAVE THAT MAGIC FORMULA!
BUT WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND OUT THERE?

I--I DON'T KNOW! BUT IF YOU FIND THE FORMULA... THEN I CAN OPEN THE DOOR! THEN I CAN DARE FACE WHATEVER IT IS!

THAT'S WHY YOU MUST FIND THAT PASSAGE! ONLY THAT MAGIC FORMULA CAN SAVE ME NOW! SAY YOU WILL FIND IT, VENABLE! SAY IT!
I'LL TRY, SIR!

And so, VENABLE TOOK THE JOB! HE BEGAN TO READ DAY AND NIGHT! HE DID NOTHING BUT TRANSLATE! GRANGER REFUSED TO LET HIM REST!
YOU MUST GO ON! YOU MUST FIND THAT MAGIC PHRASE SOMEWHERE IN THE BOOK!
THE PRINT IS SO FINE! THE LANGUAGE IS SO DIFFICULT!
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? MY LIFE'S AT STAKE! I... THE SOUND! IT'S BACK AGAIN!
WHY DON'T WE SEE WHAT IT IS? I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK!
NO! NO! YOU CAN'T LET IT INTO THE ROOM! YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP TRANSLATING!
BUT HOW CAN I WITH THAT THING CRAWLING AROUND?
NOW IT'S POUNDING ON THE DOOR!
GO AWAY! GO AWAY, I TELL YOU! LEAVE ME ALONE!
THE POUNDING IS LOUDER! STRONGER! VENABLE, PLEASE HELP ME!
BUT THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO EXCEPT WAIT FOR THE POUNDING TO STOP... YET, THE NEXT NIGHT THE POUNDING GREW BOLDER AND WOKE VENABLE... HE GRASPED THE SWORD FROM THE KNIGHT AND RACED INTO THE HALL..
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
GET AWAY FROM HERE! GO... OR I'LL KILL YOU!
YEEIII!
WHAM WHACK

HAS IT GONE, VENABLE?
YES! BUT YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS AND YOU RE GOING TO TELL ME!

I CAN'T! I MUSTN'T! I-I CAN'T TELL ANYONE!
YOU'LL TALK, GRANGER, OR I WALK OUT OF THIS HOUSE RIGHT NOW!

COME INSIDE MY STUDY, VENABLE! EACH TIME HE RETURNS HE GETS STRONGER AND BOLDER!
HE? WHO?

"MY BROTHER... ANDREW! WE WERE BOTH STUDENTS OF SORCERY. WE WERE STUDYING HOW TO BRING BACK THE DEAD! ANDREW WAS BRILLIANT AND I WAS JEALOUS...
YOU RE JEALOUS CARL!
WHY NOT? YOU'RE THE BRILLIANT ONE, NOT ME!

"THE IDEA THAT ANDREW WAS SMARTER THAN I WAS DESTROYING ME! SO ONE NIGHT I TOOK UP A KNIFE...
DIE! DIE, GENIUS!
EEEAHH!

"I STABBED HIM UNTIL I WAS ARM WEARY! THEN I BURIED HIM IN THE GARDEN! NO ONE KNOWS WHERE ANDREW IS...OR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM EXCEPT ME!"

EACH NIGHT HE RETURNS--FROM HIS GRAVE! THAT'S WHY YOU'VE GOT TO FIND THAT FORMULA! WE MUST KEEP ANDREW IN HIS GRAVE!
COUNT ME OUT! I WON'T HELP A MURDERER!

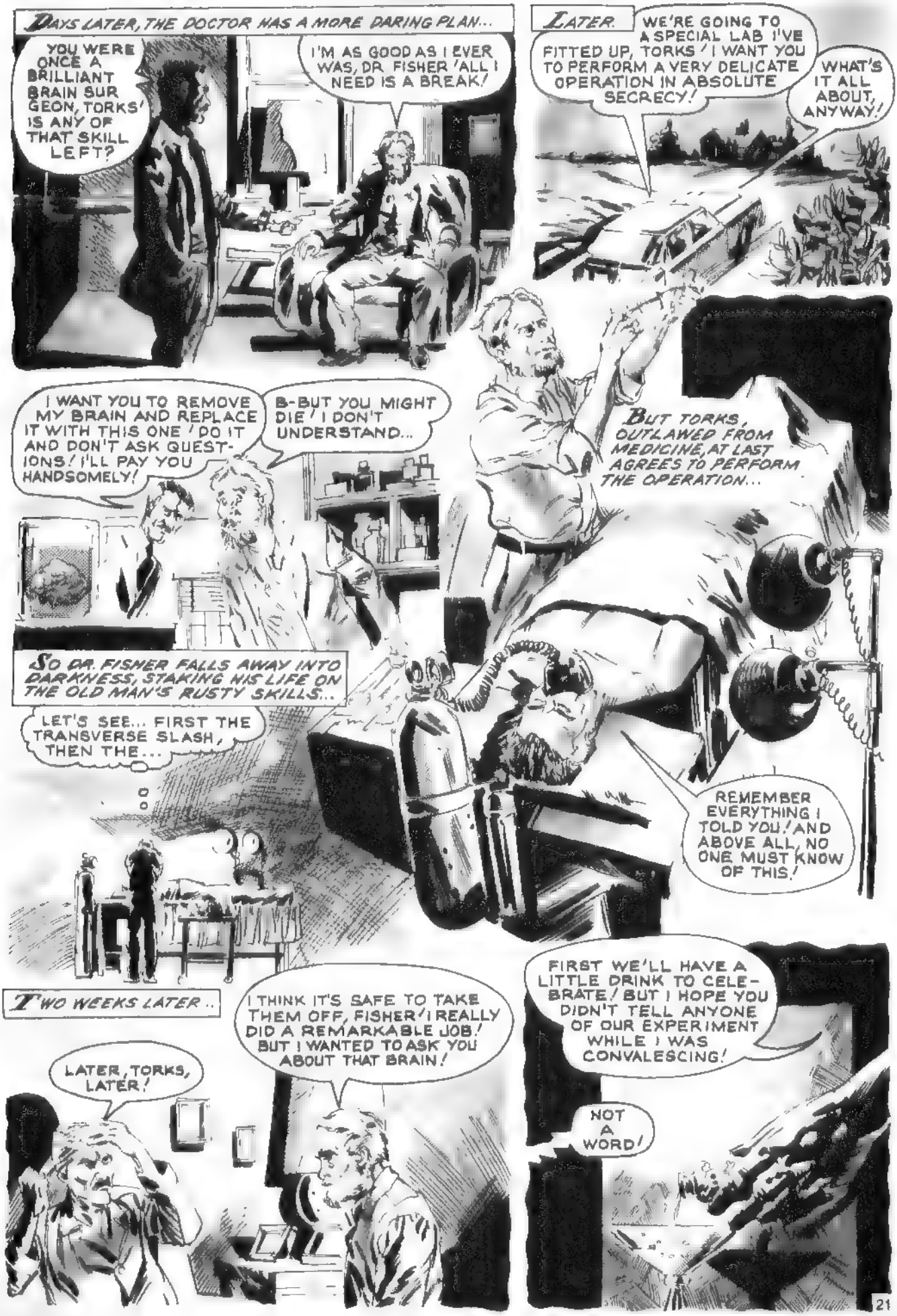
WHEN THE POLICE CAME THEY FOUND ONE BODY DECAPITATED! THE OTHER LAY NEARBY WITH A SURGICAL SAW IN ITS CLAMMY HAND...

GIVE ME BACK MY BRAIN

SOON.
SO THE OLD MAN IS DYING AT LAST, IS HE? HE MUST BE NINETY! WORTH MILLIONS, AND WITH ONE OF THE KEENEST BRAINS I'VE EVER SEEN!
HOW IS HE NOW, TABU?
YOU MUST HURRY, DOCTOR! HIS ORDERS ARE THAT YOU GO TO HIM AT ONCE!
INSTANTLY THE DOCTOR SENSES SOMETHING UNCANNY ABOUT THE DEATH ROOM...
HURRY, FISHER! I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME! YOU MUST LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT I TELL YOU.. AND YOU MUST PROMISE TO OBEY ME!
OF COURSE, SIR! ANYTHING I CAN DO!
THEY GET ODD IDEAS WHEN THEY'RE DYING!
THERE IS NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS! NOW... WHEN I DIE, YOU MUST TAKE OUT MY BRAIN AT ONCE! PUT IT IN A CASKET THAT TABU WILL GIVE YOU! MY BRAIN IS NOT REALLY MINE AT ALL! I BORROWED IT, AND YOU MUST RETURN IT! DO YOU PROMISE TO DO THIS? DO YOU?
MINUTES LATER...
HE'S GONE, TABU! MIGHT AS WELL CLOSE HIS EYES! THEN YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
HE WAS A GREAT AND GOOD MAN! I, TABU, WILL MAKE SURE HIS LAST WISHES ARE CARRIED OUT!
THE DOCTOR, STAGGERED BY THE WEIRD REQUEST, MAKES A PROMISE
TABU WILL EXPLAIN ALL AFTER I'M DEAD! BUT YOU MUST NOT BREAK YOUR WORD!
I-I PROMISE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, SIR, BUT I'LL DO IT! I'LL TAKE OUT YOUR BRAIN!

A CRUDE OPERATING TABLE IS RIGGED ..
NO TIME TO WASTE! WHILE I'M SAWING THE SKULL OPEN, YOU CAN BE EXPLAINING!
THE STORY BEGINS IN EGYPT, FIVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO! THERE WAS A HIGH PRIEST CALLED VISHNU!
SEEMS I'VE HEARD THAT NAME! DIDN'T THEY MAKE A GOD OF HIM AFTER HE DIED?
CORRECT, BUT THEY DID MORE... BEFORE HE WAS ENTOMBED, THEY REMOVED HIS BRAIN AND PRESERVED IT! FOR SOME STRANGE REASON THE BRAIN DID NOT DIE!
NOW WAIT A MINUTE, TABU, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME...
VISHNU WAS VERY ANGRY, BUT HE PERMITTED MR MAXMILIAN TO KEEP HIS BRAIN PROVIDED IT WAS USED FOR GOOD PURPOSES... AND ONLY IF IT WAS RETURNED AFTER MR MAXMILIANS DEATH!
BUT I AM, SIR! THIS IS THE BRAIN OF VISHNU! MR. MAXMILIAN DISCOVERED IT IN A TOMB SOME SIXTY YEARS AGO! IT WAS STILL ALIVE! HE DARED TO TAKE IT AND HAVE IT PUT INTO HIS OWN SKULL! LATER HE HAD A DREAM IN WHICH VISHNU CAME TO HIM!
INCREDIBLE!
OF ALL THE CRAZY YARNS... BUT SOMEHOW I BELIEVE IT! AND IF IT IS TRUE, WHAT A CHANCE FOR ME! A BRAIN .. ALIVE AFTER FIVE THOUSAND YEARS... I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GET TO MY LAB AND LOOK AT IT!
LATER
NOW IT MUST GO BACK TO ITS TOMB IN EGYPT! YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN, SIR, BECAUSE ONLY A DOCTOR COULD REMOVE THE BRAIN WITHOUT HARMING IT!

FASCINATED BY THE BRAIN, THE DOCTOR WORKS UNTIL DAWN
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, THE BRAIN IS EXTREMELY OLD! THE TISSUE SHOWS THAT CLEARLY! THE DEGREE OF CONVOLUTION SHOWS THAT IT IS HIGHLY DEVELOPED AND COMPLICATED!
NO WONDER MAXMILIAN WAS SO SUCCESSFUL! WHO WOULDN'T BE WITH A BRAIN LIKE THIS! MARVELOUS, TOO, HOW IT CONTINUES TO LIVE! PITY TO PUT IT IN SOME DECAYING TOMB!
LATER
YOU CANNOT RETURN THE BRAIN?
NO! I'M MUCH TOO BUSY! IF YOU WANT TO RETURN THE BRAIN, HERE IT IS!
NEXT DAY THE DOCTOR VISITS HIS OLD MEDICAL SCHOOL
HELLO, DEAN BAXTER! I WONDER IF YOU COULD DO ME A FAVOR? I NEED A BRAIN.. JUST ANY OLD BRAIN WILL DO!
I THINK WE CAN MANAGE THAT FOR OUR MOST BRILLIANT GRADUATE!
BUT THAT NIGHT THE DOCTOR CHUCKLES AT HIS OWN CLEVERNESS!
VERY NEAT! TABU NEVER GUESSED THAT I SWITCHED THE BRAINS! NOW I CAN STUDY VISHNU'S BRAIN TO MY HEARTS CONTENT!
YOU HAVE BROKEN FAITH, BUT TABU WILL NOT! I WILL RETURN THE BRAIN IN YOUR STEAD! GOOD BYE, DR FISHER!
GOODBYE, TABU! GOOD LUCK ON YOUR TRIP!

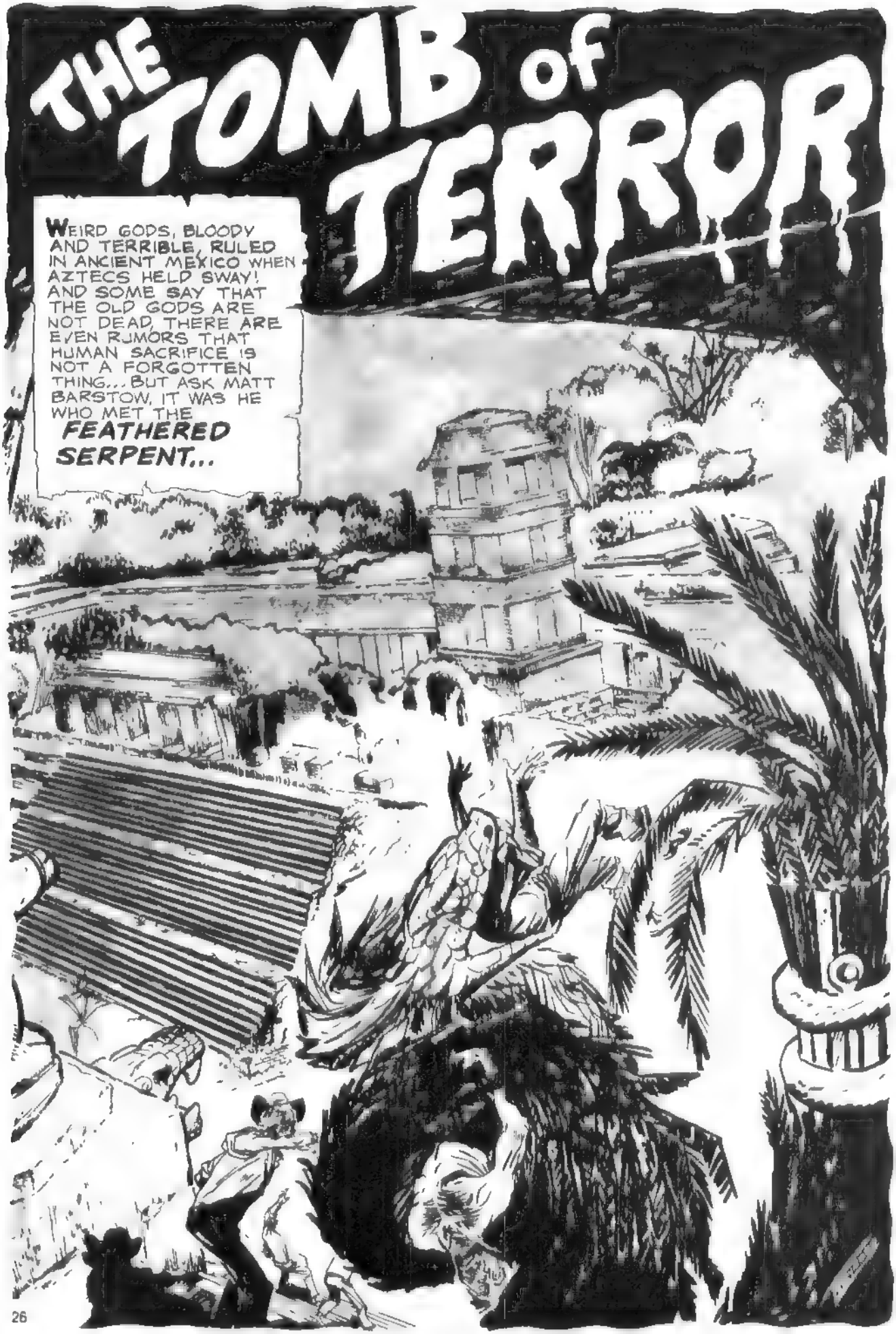

DAYS LATER, THE DOCTOR HAS A MORE DARING PLAN...
YOU WERE ONCE A BRILLIANT BRAIN SURGEON, TORKS! IS ANY OF THAT SKILL LEFT?
I'M AS GOOD AS I EVER WAS, DR. FISHER! ALL I NEED IS A BREAK!
LATER.
WE'RE GOING TO A SPECIAL LAB I'VE FITTED UP, TORKS! I WANT YOU TO PERFORM A VERY DELICATE OPERATION IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY!
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY!
I WANT YOU TO REMOVE MY BRAIN AND REPLACE IT WITH THIS ONE! DO IT AND DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! I'LL PAY YOU HANDSOMELY!
B-BUT YOU MIGHT DIE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
BUT TORKS, OUTLAWED FROM MEDICINE, AT LAST AGREES TO PERFORM THE OPERATION...
SO DR. FISHER FALLS AWAY INTO DARKNESS, STAKING HIS LIFE ON THE OLD MAN'S RUSTY SKILLS...
LET'S SEE... FIRST THE TRANSVERSE SLASH, THEN THE...
REMEMBER EVERYTHING I TOLD YOU! AND ABOVE ALL, NO ONE MUST KNOW OF THIS!
TWO WEEKS LATER..
I THINK IT'S SAFE TO TAKE THEM OFF, FISHER! I REALLY DID A REMARKABLE JOB! BUT I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THAT BRAIN!
LATER, TORKS, LATER!
FIRST WE'LL HAVE A LITTLE DRINK TO CELEBRATE! BUT I HOPE YOU DIDN'T TELL ANYONE OF OUR EXPERIMENT WHILE I WAS CONVALESCING!
NOT A WORD!

MEANTIME TABU MAKES THE LONG JOURNEY TO EGYPT...
AT LAST I CAN RETURN THE BRAIN TO VISHNU!
THEN BOTH OF US CAN REST IN PEACE!
THIS MUST BE THE TOMB OF VISHNU! ACCORDING TO MY INSTRUCTIONS I MUST PLACE THE CASKET WITH THE BRAIN ON THE STONE COFFIN, THEN SAY A PRAYER...
...OF THANKS FOR THE USE OF THE BRAIN!
I, TABU, SERVANT OF MAXMILIAN, PAY HOMAGE TO VISHNU, THE MOST VENERABLE AND WISE!
SUDDENLY.
L-LIGHTNING! THE TOMB IS S-SHATTERED! VISHNU MUST BE ANGRY WITH ME!

A SPECTRAL FIGURE LOOMS FROM THE COFFIN.
FOOL! CURSED MORTAL! HOW DARE YOU OFFER ME THE BRAIN OF ANOTHER?
LIAR! IT IS THE BRAIN OF A MADMAN, A CRIMINAL, TAKEN FROM A NAMELESS BODY! DIE NOW!
ANOTHER? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! IT IS YOUR BRAIN, VISHNU! I RETURN IT AS MY MASTER BADE ME!
MEANWHILE, THE DOCTOR PROSPERS..
EVERYTHING IS GOING MY WAY! FAME AND FORTUNE IS MINE!
THAT NIGHT HE MAKES A BRILLIANT SPEECH BEFORE A LEARNED SOCIETY...
NOW IN CLOSING LET ME QUOTE FROM THE GREEK EPICTETUS...
MARVELOUS! ONE WOULD ALMOST THINK HE WAS THERE!
LATER...
I WAS EXCEPTIONAL TONIGHT!... AND WHY NOT? IN MY SKULL IS A BRAIN FIVE THOUSAND YEARS OLD!

AS HE REACHES HOME..
GOOD EVENING, SIR! THERE IS A GENTLEMAN WAITING IN THE STUDY! A PATIENT, I BELIEVE!
YOU KNOW I NO LONGER SEE PATIENTS!
I'VE GIVEN UP ORDINARY PRACTICE, HOWEVER
BUT THIS PATIENT IS DIFFERENT.
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME? A HEAD WOUND OF SOME KIND?
YES, DOCTOR, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT!
AS THE LAST BANDAGE FALLS AWAY..
NOW, DOCTOR, I WANT MY BRAIN!
EEEEEEEE

YOU FOOLED TABU, DOCTOR, BUT NOT VISHNU! I HAVE COME ALL THE WAY FROM EGYPT TO GET MY BRAIN!
N-NO! Y-YOU CAN'T! I HAVE THE BRAIN IN MY SKULL!
SOMETHING GLITTERS CRUELLY IN THE BONY HANDS OF VISHNU..
NO- NOT THAT! YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO ME!
AHEEEEEEE-
YOU ARE WRONG AGAIN, DOCTOR! VISHNU CAN DO IT! NOW GIVE IT TO ME!
AT LAST! AND IT SEEMS TO BE UNHARMED WHICH (CHUCKLE) IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOU, DOCTOR!
LATER A STARK AND TERRIBLE FIGURE IS SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE NIGHT SKY..
NOW VISHNU CAN RETURN TO HIS TOMB IN PEACE!
BEHIND, IN A SILENT HOUSE, IS ALL THAT IS LEFT OF DR. MORRIS FISHER! LIKE MANY BEFORE HIM, HE LEARNED KNOWLEDGE MUST BE EARNED! IT CANNOT BE STOLEN..
THE END


THE TOMB of TERROR
WEIRD GODS, BLOODY AND TERRIBLE, RULED IN ANCIENT MEXICO WHEN AZTECS HELD SWAY! AND SOME SAY THAT THE OLD GODS ARE NOT DEAD, THERE ARE EVEN RUMORS THAT HUMAN SACRIFICE IS NOT A FORGOTTEN THING... BUT ASK MATT BARSTOW, IT WAS HE WHO MET THE FEATHERED SERPENT...

MATT BARSTOW AND A FRIEND ARE EXPLORING A FORBIDDEN AZTEC TEMPLE IN THE MEXICAN JUNGLE...
LOOK! THAT DOOR! MIGHT CONCEAL THE PASSAGE WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!
COULD BE! WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK IT DOWN!
OLD AZTEC PICTURE WRITING! WHAT'S IT SAY, BOY?
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF IT, WHATEVER IT IS!
YOU ARE RIGHT SEÑOR! IT IS NOT GOOD!
IT IS A WARNING! ZABO SPEAKS! HE WARNS THAT ALL WHO ENTER HERE WILL DIE!
SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE!
ZABO IS A KILLER! I GO!
FOOL!
I DON'T KNOW MATT! MAYBE WE SHOULD GO ALSO!
DON'T BE A FOOL, HANK! ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND ZABO ONLY GUARDS THE TEMPLE TREASURES COME ON AND HELP!
I STILL DON'T LIKE IT!
WHEW! IT'S DARK! AND THAT SMELL TERRIBLE!
Y-YES! LIKE SOMETHING-- DEAD!
SUDDENLY...
MATT ANOTHER DOOR! IT'S OPENING!
YOU'RE RIGHT!

HISSSSS... RRRRR!
RUN! IT'LL KILL US!
ZABO!
RUN FOOL! IT'S EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF NOW!
IT'S GAINING! HELP!
GAAAEEE!

MATT GETS AWAY...
OH, WHAT A CLOSE ONE! WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT! B-BUT I'M SAFE FOR NOW!
AND HE MAKES HIS WAY BACK TO CAMP...
I GOT TO HANDLE THIS THING THE SMART WAY! THAT BEAST IS GUARDING THE TREASURE --AND I WANT IT!
SO MATT BARSTOW LIES....
HI, MATT! WHERE'S HANK? YOU DIDN'T LEAVE HIM AT THE TEMPLE?
YES! HE--ER --WANTED TO STUDY SOME OLD AZTEC WRITING!
AND THAT NIGHT...
I'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST NOW! BEN IS ALREADY SUSPICIOUS BECAUSE HANK HASN'T RETURNED! BUT I'M NOT SHARING THAT TREASURE WITH ANYBODY--IF I CAN GET AT IT!
ZABO! HERE IT IS! SAYS THE OLD AZTECS OFTEN OFFERED HUMAN SACRIFICES TO APPEASE HIM-- HUH! THAT YOU BEN?
YEAH! I WANTA TALK TO YOU!

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO HANK! YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING, MATT! MAYBE YOU KILLED HANK!
YOU'RE WRONG BEN: ALL WRONG! I TELL YOU...
AND NOW I FIND YOU READING UP ON AZTEC HUMAN SACRIFICES! YOU'RE LYING MATT! YOU KILLED HANK!
YES! AND I FOUND THE TREASURE! AND I AM NOT SHARING IT WITH YOU!
AGGGG!
LATER....
BEN GAVE ME AN IDEA AT THAT! NOW I'LL SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING IN THIS HUMAN SACRIFICE STUFF! MIGHT BE A WAY TO GET AT THE TREASURE!
C-CREEPY! I WOULDN'T DO THIS FOR ANYTHING BUT A FORTUNE! BUT NO FEATHERED SERPENT IS GOING TO KEEP MATT BARSTOW AWAY FROM THE TREASURE!

THERE'S YOUR SACRIFICE, ZABO! ALL READY! NOW LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE INTERESTED ENOUGH TO LEAVE THE TREASURE UNGUARDED!
HIS HEART BEATING WITH FEAR, MATT WAITS FOR THE MONSTER...
NOTHING YET! BUT HE MUST BE AROUND! HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SMELL THAT SACRIFICE!
SUDDENLY...
ZABO! WHAT A BRUTE! HE'S GOING AFTER THE BODY!
CRUNCH!
COLD SWEAT ALL OVER ME! BUT IT WORKS! I KNOW HOW I CAN GET TO THE TREASURE NOW! ONLY THING IS... I NEED MORE HUMAN SACRIFICES!

I GUESS SOME OF THE NATIVES HAVE GOT TO GO! MAYBE ALL OF THEM! I GOT TO KEEP ZABO BUSY LONG ENOUGH TO GET THE TREASURE!
AND THAT VERY NIGHT HE GETS MORE INSPIRATION...
HMM—THEY'VE GOT THE IDEA!
GRAB HER SHE MUST BE SACRIFICED TO ZABO!
N-NO! PLEASE LET ME GO!
P-PLEASE! I DO NOT WANT TO DIE!
BUT ZABO IS IN A RAGE! HE WILL SLAY MANY UNLESS HE HAS A VICTIM!
MORE THAN ONE VICTIM!
TIE HER WELL, AND LET US HURRY! ZABO WILL SMELL BLOOD SOON!
I'M SORRY, LITTLE ONE, BUT ONE MUST DIE THAT MANY MAY LIVE!

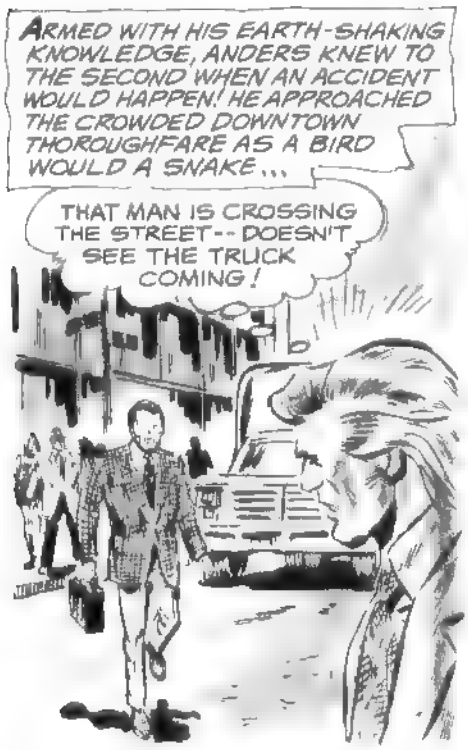
GRRRRRRRR—
ZABO! HE COMES FOR HIS FEAST! RUN!
YES THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE WAY I GET MY FORTUNE! THOSE POOR FOOLS OF INDIANS PUT THE FINGER ON THEM-SELVES!
N-NO—
AHHHHHH
THE NEXT MORNING...
YOU'RE RIGHT, BOYS! YOU RE GOING TO BE THE BAIT THAT GETS ZABO OUT OF THE WAY FOR ME!
HE IS GOING TO KILL US!
THE ALTER, SEÑOR! WHY BRING US TO THE ALTER OF ZABO?
NO, SEÑOR! PLEASE NO!
HIEEE! ZABO WILL GET US!
MOVE ALONG OR I'LL KILL YA RIGHT HERE AND NOW! HURRY!
EEEE!
GAAA!
SORRY BOYS, BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN GET TO THAT TREASURE!

MINUTES LATER...
THERE HE IS! ZABO AFTER THE SACRIFICES! TIME TO BE ON YOUR WAY, BARSTOW!
OUGHT TO TAKE HIM A LITTLE TIME TO DISPOSE OF HIS--UGH--MEAL! MAYBE TEN MINUTES!
THAT'S THAT HOLE NOW! ALMOST --GASP--THERE: THE TREASURE MUST BE INSIDE!
EMPTY! NOTHING BUT A--A NOTE?
THE DEN OF ZABO! A STENCH OF MUSTY DEATH FILLS THE AIR...
I MADE IT! BUT G-GOT TO HURRY BEFORE THAT THING COMES BACK!

BEN! HE GOT HERE FIRST!
SORRY CHUMPS! I GOT THE TREASURE WHILE THE SERPENT WAS CHASING YOU! I HID IT! IF MY PLANS GO WELL YOU'LL NEVER READ THIS BECAUSE YOU'LL BE DEAD! S'LONG, SAPS! BEN
BEN! CURSE HIM! THAT'S WHY HE WAS QUESTIONING ME LAST NIGHT! HE WANTED ME ARRESTED FOR MURDER, AND OUT OF THE WAY! BUT I KILLED HIM! SO HE COULD HAVE THE TREASURE FOR HIMSELF! NOW I'VE BEEN CHEATED!
THE D-DOOR! OPENING! I CAN'T GET OUT! THE SERPENT--NO --AHHHH!
SNAP!
CRUNCH!
THE END

THINGS OF EVIL

JOHN ANDER WAS THE CITY MORGUE STATISTICIAN! FOR A LONG TIME, HE HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS-- AND NOW HE WAS ON THE TRACK OF DISCOVERY AT LAST!



ANDERS HAD CLOSED HIS EYES FOR ONE HORRIBLE SECOND-- BUT HE COULD NEVER DEAFEN HIS EARS TO THE SICKENING THUD OF THE IMPACT! IT WAS THEN THAT HE SAW THE GNOME!

THIS TIME, ANDERS RESOLVED TO TRACE THAT EVIL CACKLING FIGURE! NIGHT HAD FALLEN! THE MORGUE STATISTICIAN PURSUED HIS QUARRY...
APPARENTLY, IT'S INVISIBLE TO EVERYONE BUT ME...
HA, HA... HEE, HEE... BACK TO THE GROTTO FOR ME!
MINUTES LATER, HE HAD FOLLOWED THE STRANGE GNOME TOWARDS THE RAILROAD DEPOT OF THE CITY!
LITTLE DO THESE PEOPLE KNOW, THAT I'M ON THE VERGE OF FINDING A SECRET OF THE AGES! IT'S FOR THEIR BENEFIT! --AND I CAN'T TELL THEM YET!
HE'S GOING INTO THAT TUNNEL! I MUSTN'T LOSE HIM!
DOWN, DOWN--EVER DOWNWARD THAT HIDEOUS FORM TRAVELED--PAST DRIPPING, OOZING LABYRINTHS OF SLIME...
CRUMKIN, FRANKIN, AND LUMPKIN SHALL BE GLAD TO SEE ME TONIGHT! HEE, HEE... TWO MORE HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF NICELY! HA-HA... HEE, HEE...
HEE, HEE... BEHOLD! IT IS SHRUMPKIN! HO! EVERYONE OUT! HEE, HEE... TELL US WHAT HAPPENED! TELL US! TELL US! HA, HA...!
WHAT IS THIS! THIS HAS TO BE A NIGHTMARE! IT HAS TO BE!

BUT AS JOHN ANDERS LOOKED ABOUT, HE SAW BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF LIGHTS AND WEIRD INSTRUMENTS EVERYWHERE...
WHAT IS THIS! WHERE AM I?

SHRUMPKIN WAS SUCCESSFUL! HA...HA...HEE, HEE... DANCE, DANCE DANCE!
--GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE-- WARN OTHERS!!

WAIT! THERE'S SOMEONE THERE! I SEE A SHADOW IN THAT CORRIDOR!

IT'S A HUMAN! QUICKLY-- STOP HIM! HE WILL MAKE OUR EXISTENCE KNOWN! CATCH HIM! CATCH HIM!
WE SHALL EAT WELL TONIGHT! HA, HA, HAW...

I HAVE HIM! HE IS WELL-BUILT! HE WILL PROVIDE US MANY MEALS! HA, HA... LET US COOK HIM WELL! DRAG HIM BACK TO THE GROTTO!
NO! LET ME ALONE! HELP!

SHOUT ALL YOU WANT, MORTAL! NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU! WE CANNOT LET YOU EXPOSE US! WE HATE PEOPLE!
YA-A-A-AH! PLEASE LET GO OF ME! I'LL DO ANYTHING!

THEY PULLED AT ANDERS-- BUT THE DESPERATE MAN BROKE LOOSE AND RAN FOR HIS VERY LIFE!

YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME! I- I'LL WIN YET! PUFF- PUFF...

HE IS CHEATING US OUT OF OUR DINNER! DO NOT LET HIM ESCAPE!

GASP..GASP.. I-I'VE GOT TO MAKE MY WAY BACK TO THE SURFACE! --I MUSTN'T WEAKEN-- MUSTN'T!

KILL HIM! WE'D LIKE TO EAT HIM ALIVE! BUT KILL HIM IF NECESSARY! HA, HA...

BACK THROUGH THOSE MAKE OF PASSAGEWAYS HE RAN... BACK... BACK... UNTIL HE REACHED THE LAST CORRIDOR... AND THE SURFACE WORLD!

YOU'LL NOT ESCAPE! NO HUMAN CAN LOOK UPON US AND LIVE!

GASP... GASP... I'VE DONE IT! HA, HA... I WON... I'M FREE!

TIME WAS FLEETING FOR ANDERS. THE HORRIBLE HORDE WOULD BE PREPARING SOMETHING ESPECIALLY GRUESOME FOR HIM! HE HAD TO WARN THE WORLD

THESE ARE ALL THE CHARTS! THEY MUST BELIEVE ME! HEAVEN GIVE ME STRENGTH TO CONVINCE THEM!

BUT HOURS LATER ..

NOW GET OUT! THE MAYOR CAN'T BE DISTURBED BY EVERY CRACKPOT THAT COMES TO SEE HIM! "ACCIDENTS BEING DELIBERATE," "GNOMES"! PAH!

ALL RIGHT! I'LL HAVE TO WARN THEM SOME OTHER WAY! I'LL BUY AN AD IN THE PAPER! I'LL SPEND ALL MY SAVINGS IF I MUST! I'LL A-A-AGH-H!

ANDERS-- JOHN ANDERS! HELLO, JOHN ANDERS! HELLO! HELLO! HA, HA!...

THE POLICE FOUND HIM LATER! SOMEONE HAD LODGED A COMPLAINT THAT THE CESSPOOL IN THEIR YARD WAS OVERFLOWING... SOMETHING WAS CLOGGING IT!!

AND UNDERGROUND IN THEIR GROTTO, THE STRANGE GNOMES CHORTLED IN GLEE! THEY KNEW THAT ANDERS COULD NEVER CONQUER THEM! THEY KEPT THE LIFE SOULS OF MAN IN THOSE LIGHTS THEIR MASTER, YOU SEE, WAS... **DEATH!**

THE END

DEEP IN THE DARK CONTINENT WHERE MAN IS PUNY, THE DREAD GODS TOWER OVER ALL! WOE TO THE INTRUDER WHO DARES TO LAUGH INTO THE TEETH OF-

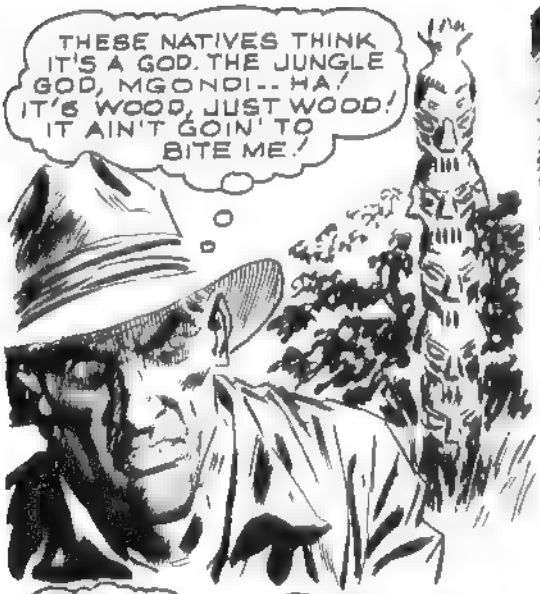
THE SEVEN SKULLS

I'M TAKIN' THE RUBIES! YOUR CRAZY SPELLS DON'T SCARE ME, WITCH DOCTOR! I GOT THE REAL MAGIC-BULLETS! HA! HA!

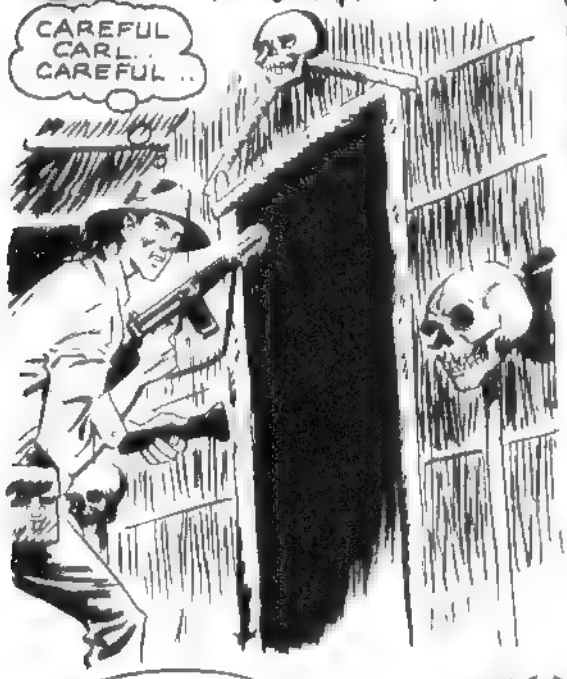
KI NA TU MGONDI! KI NA TU--- UGHHHH!

WH... (GASP) OH-OH, A TOTEM... JUST A HUNK OF WOOD!

CARL CARRUDA WAS SUCH AN INTRUDER!


THESE NATIVES THINK IT'S A GOD. THE JUNGLE GOD, MGONDI-- HA! IT'S WOOD, JUST WOOD! IT AIN'T GOIN' TO BITE ME!

QUIET. . NOT A PEEP! AH THERE, THE TEMPLE OF MGONDI!


CAREFUL CARL.. CAREFUL ..

NOW FOR THEM PIGEON-BLOODS!

WH... IT... IT... YAAHHHH! IT M MOVES!

I... I'M NOT SEEING THINGS! IT D-DID... IT'S ALIVE!
HARRREEEEEEE

I... IT STOPPED... IT AIN'T MOVED AGAIN.
IT COULDN'T TALK! IT COULDN'T MOVE! IT'S WOOD. WOOD! HOW COULD IT MOVE?!
NOW... A FEW FEET MORE, AND THEN IT'S MINE, THE NECKLACE WITH THE PIGEON-BLOOD RUBIES! YOU'LL BE RICH, CARRUDA, RICHER THAN A KING!
KI NA TU MGONDI! KI NA TU!
H-HAA... W-WHO? (GASP) A WITCH DOCTOR!
I'M TAKING THESE RUBIES! YOUR CRAZY SPELLS DON'T SCARE ME, WITCH DOCTOR!
RA NA! RA NA!

YOUR MAGIC AGAINST MINE? HA! HA! OKAY! TAKE IT!
AAGHH!
I GOT THE REAL MAGIC! BULLETS! WHERE'S YOUR GREAT GOD MAGONDI NOW? HA!
AAAGH...
TRICK WHEELS AND LEVERS AND A TRUMPET SO THE WITCH MAN COULD MAKE THE IDOL MOVE AND TALK! I SHOULDA KNOWN MGONDI WAS A FAKE! BUT, HA! HA! THESE RUBIES AIN'T!
THEY KNOW BETTER'N TO COME AFTER ME! BECAUSE I GOT THE REAL MAGIC, HA! HA! AND I GOT THE NECKLACE AND NOTHIN' CAN STOP ME!
MGONDI (SOB) M-MGONDI-- III!
AH, MGONDI! (GASP) OH, MGONDI! AAY, MGONDI NU! SOB MGONDI-III!

AH, MGONDI! MGONDI!
MGONDI! NAREE!

UGHHHHH...
BOOM BA BOOM

M-M-MGONDI...

(PANT) W...WH... MY THROAT! (PANT) ALL OF A SUDDEN, HURTS! I'D BETTER LAY OFF THE RUNNIN'! I'M FAR ENOUGH AWAY, NOW!

NO...(CHOKE)... IT AIN'T THE RUNNIN'! MY THROAT, SOMETHING'S HAPPENIN' TO ME! MY THROAT... THE NECKLACE!...

THE RUBIES . TH--- THEY'VE . EEEOW! SOMETHING'S BITING. . TEETH... THE RUBIES HAVE CHANGED INTO... EEOWW!

N-HELP! HELP! TEETH.. LITTLE HEADS.. BITING... B-BITING!... CAN'T GET THEM OFF... OWWW!

NO...NO! HEADS...SNAPPING HEADS! W-WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING TO ME?! PLEASE! S-STOP OHHHH!

OFF G-GOT TO G-GET THEM OFF!

BACK! BACK! KEEP BACK!
RAT A TAT TAT

THE HEADS...! THEY STILL KEEP COM-(GASP)... YAAGGHHH!

M-G-O-N-D-I!

THE END

THE GROTESQUE CHECKMATE
"HE MATES, AND CHECKS, AND SLAYS, AND ONE BY ONE BACK IN THE CLOSET LAYS." OMAR

SWIFTY JOE YANNER, WHO COULD DISPUTE ANY MAN'S CLAIM TO BEING THE BIGGEST ROGUE IN AFRICA...
HATES THE DUTCHMAN WHO OWNS TWO THIRDS OF THE DIAMOND MINE AND THE AFFECTIONS OF YALA..
THAT FAT FOOL! GIVING AWAY DIAMONDS WHAT I SWEAT FOR!
YA, FOR YOU, LIDDLE ONE! A NICE STONE! YOU LIKE, I THINK
SUCH WAS THE UNSAVORY SITUATION! ONE NIGHT WHEN THE DAYS DIGGING WAS BEING DIVIDED...
YA, WE DO GOOD TODAY! GOOD STONES! WE GOT BEST LIDDLE DIAMOND MINE IN AFRICA, I TINK!
C'MON, DUTCHMAN, GIMME MY SHARE!
YOU GOOD TO YALA, DUTCHMAN! I LOVE YOU! MUCH LOVE YOU!
YA... ONE THIRD FOR YOU, SHIFTY! I GEEP TWO THIRDS!
YEAH, LIKE ALWAYS, YA ROTTEN HUNK OF BLUBBER!
YA, JOE, YOU DON'T FOOL ME! I KNOW YOU HATE ME! HA HA- MAYBE SOME DAY I GIVE YOU MORE DIAMONDS MAYBE EVEN GIVE YOU LIDDLE GIRL, HUH?
I WANTA BE AROUND WHEN YOU GIVE SOMETHING AWAY, DUTCHMAN!
WE PLAY CHESS NOW, HUH? FORGET OUR TROUBLES! TONIGHT I BEAT YOU LIKE ALWAYS!

MIGHT AS WELL PLAY THE CRUMMY GAME / IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP FROM GOING NUTS IN THIS JUNGLE HOLE /
HA HA - PRETTY SOON RIVER STEAMER COME, JOE, BRING YOU SOME NEW PINUP PICTURES, YA /
HA, I TINK I GOT YOU CHECKMATE SOON, JOE / YOU GOT NO BRAINS FOR CHESS /
I GOT BRAINS ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF YOU WHEN THE TIME COMES /
THE WITCHES BROTH BEGINS TO BUBBLE / A FEW NIGHTS LATER.
YA, NEFFER WAS I SO TIRED, JOE / I TINK I - YAWN - TURN IN /
YOU'RE TIRED, HA / I DO ALL THE WORK AROUND HERE /
LATER, JOE GOES FOR A WALK BY THE RIVER, HIS THOUGHTS AS DEEP AND MUDDY AS THE STREAM..
I AIN'T GONNA TAKE MUCH MORE OF THE DUTCHMAN / I GOTTA ACT SOON, BEFORE THE RIVER BOAT ARRIVES / ONLY THE DUTCHMAN IS PRETTY SMART /
YALA / THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE I'M GOING TO TAKE AWAY FROM THE DUTCHMAN /
WHEN YALA FINISHES BATHING
HI, YALA / I BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU / THAT WAS, HEH HEH - A GOOD SHOW /
YOU / SPYING ON YALA /
C'MON, BABY / PUT THE KNIFE AWAY / I WON'T HURT YOU,
STAY AWAY, YOU DIRTY PIG, YALA CUT /

OWWWW! YOU LITTLE DEVIL! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
YOU WILL PAY, WHEN I TELL THE DUTCHMAN!
JOE'S BRAIN REELS IN A TERRIBLE ANGER, AS THOUGH THE BLOOD WERE OOZING FROM HIS VERY SOUL
I'LL GET THEM! I'LL GET THEM BOTH! I'LL GET EVEN RIGHT NOW- TONIGHT!
MINUTES LATER.
I GOT TO DO IT FAST BEFORE I LOSE MY NERVE! THE FAT CLOWN DOESN'T DESERVE TO LIVE!
HUH! JOE! NO- DON'T! GAAAAAAA
YALA HEARS THE SHOT
SWINE! YOU KILL MY DUTCHMAN! I KILL YOU!
NO, YALA, LISTEN! WE CAN WORK OUT A DEAL! PUT THAT KNIFE AWAY!
I KILL- KILL!
YOU CRAZY LITTLE WENCH! OUCH! CUT IT OUT, I TELL YA! I'LL SHOOT!
MAYBE JOE MEANT TO KILL HER, MAYBE NOT! WHO KNOWS...
OWWWW- /-AHHHH...
YALA!

JOE WORKS LATE THAT NIGHT
THERE! THE CURRENT OUGHTA CARRY 'EM DOWNSTREAM! OR MAYBE THE CROCS WILL GET THEM! THAT WOULD BE BEST!
BUT THE HOURS HANG LIKE LEADEN WEIGHTS..
LATER
I GOTTA HAVE A STORY WHEN THE RIVER STEAMER COMES! I'LL SAY THEY BOTH DIED OF FEVER! YEAH, THAT'S IT! AND I HAD TA BURRY THEM DEEP IN THE JUNGLE!
ALL MINE NOW! I'M RICH, ONLY I GOTTA GET OUTTA AFRICA! I WISH THAT BOAT WAS DUE TOMORROW 'STEAD OF NEXT WEEK
I-I'M GOING NUTS! I KEEP THINKING OF THE DUTCHMAN'S FACE JUST BEFORE I SHOT HIM! I GOTTA DO SOMETHING!
I KNOW! I'LL PLAY THAT BLASTED GAME WITH MYSELF! AT LEAST IT'LL HELP PASS THE TIME!
HA HA - THIS IS ONE TIME I'LL BEAT THAT CURSED DUTCHMAN!

A ROARING LIKE A CATARACT IN JOE'S EARS! THE ROOM FILLS WITH FOG - AND OUT OF THE FOG.
YA, JOE! WE HAVE LIDDLE GAME!
AGHHH! THAT HAND! THE D-D-UTCHMAN!
YIIIIIII - I'M SEEING THINGS! THAT H HAND AIN'T R REALLY THERE! IT C-CAN'T BE!
YOU WAS ALWAYS A COWARD, JOE! YA! COME AND HAVE LIDDLE GAME!
I GIVE YOU CHANCE, JOE! FOR YOUR LIFE, YA! YOU BEAT THE DUTCHMAN ONE GAME AND I LET YOU LIFF! YA?
OKAY, DUTCHMAN! I'LL P-PLAY YOU! ONLY IT AIN'T FAIR! Y-YER TOO GOOD!
SO, HIS HANDS GREASY WITH THE SWEAT OF FEAR, JOE PLAYS FOR HIS LIFE...
YOU BLAY, JOE! WE SEE!
I I DUNNO! CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT! IF I MAKE ONE MORE MISTAKE
YOUR MOVE, YA!
YOUR QUEEN, JOE!
WHAT!

REMORSELESSLY, PIECE BY PIECE, THE HAND CLEARS THE BOARD...
I-I AIN'T GOT A CHANCE! T-THAT THING IS GONNA KILL ME!
THEN THE SUDDEN MIRACLE.
I GOT YOU! I WIN! CHECKMATE!
YA, JOE, YOU WIN!
SURE, JOE, I PROMISED!
I FINALLY BEAT YA, YA STUPID DUTCHMAN! NOW YOU GOT TO LEMME GO! YA PROMISED!
I GEEP PROMISE, JOE-FOR NOW! YA! GOOT PYE, JOE!
MINUTES LATER
IT'S GONE, AND I'M GETTING OUTTA HERE BEFORE IT COMES BACK TONIGHT!
NO TIME TO WAIT FOR THE STEAMER! THIS OLD DUGOUT AIN'T MUCH, BUT MAYBE SHE'LL GET ME DOWN TO THE PORT! AWAY FROM THAT (SHUDDER) HAND!
AN HOUR LATER
CROCS! NEVER SAW SO MANY BEFORE! THEY'RE AFTER SOMETHING IN THE WATER!

THE BODIES!
THEN
JOE'S SCREAM BREAKS THE JUNGLE QUIET AT THE SIGHT OF THE DUTCHMAN.
EEEEAAA
HIS RIGHT HAND IS GONE!
YOU MADE LIDDLE MISTAKE, JOE! I'M STILL HERE, YA!
NO! DON'T! AHHHHHH- SAVE ME! THE CROCS!
CHECKMATE, JOE! YA!
NAAAAA
THE END

A LITTLE BLOB OF PROTOPLASM! THE FOUNDATION OF ALL LIFE AND BEAUTY!! YET ITS SECRET IN THE HANDS OF AN EVIL MADMAN CHANGED IT INTO A...
SPIDER
IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, I'LL HAVE COMPLETED MY MOST FAMOUS EXPERIMENT/ I WILL HAVE CRACKED THROUGH THE MYSTERIOUS WALL OF NATURE/
INTO THE QUIVERING JELLY-LIKE MASS FLOWS THE SECRET FLUID, CHANGING THE LIFELESS BLOB INTO CHARGED VITALITY...
NOW WE SHALL SEE..

..CHANGING IT'S FORMLESS MASS INTO..
A..A SNAKE! THE PROTOPLASM MUST HAVE BEEN THE WRONG CONSISTENCY! BUT... BUT THE EXPERIMENT WORKED!
I MUST TELL THE OTHERS... I'VE FOUND IT!! THE SECRET OF PROTO-PLASM... THE SUBSTANCE OF LIFE! COME IN AND SEE!
THANK HEAVEN IT TURNED BACK TO THE ORIGINAL AGAIN!
WHAT DID YOU DO, DR. LARSON?
I HAVE FOUND THAT THIS BLOB OF PROTOPLASM... INJECTED WITH MY SECRET FORMULA WILL GIVE FORTH LIFE!
..WHAT THE LIFE FORM WILL BE DEPENDS ON THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROTOPLASM. THIS SAME JELLY AT DIFFERENT TEMPERATURES MAY PRODUCE A HUMAN, A MONSTER, A REPTILE OR ANY FORM OF LIFE WE KNOW. OR PERHAPS DON'T KNOW!
I. I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! WILL YOU SHOW US AN EXPERIMENT, DOCTOR!

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT WORKS AFTER I REST FOR A FEW MINUTES!
SOMETHING BIG IS GOING ON HERE! THERE'S A STORY IN IT IF I CAN ONLY FIND OUT WHAT THEIR EXPERIMENT IS... THINK I'LL SNOOP AROUND.
FUNNY, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO STICK A HYPODERMIC NEEDLE INTO SOMETHING.. LIKE THE MAD SCIENTISTS IN THE MOVIES! THERE!
IN THE MYSTERIOUS LABORATORY, THE CURIOUS REPORTER SEARCHES, LITTLE KNOWING THAT IN HIS HAND HE HOLDS THE SECRET OF LIFE...
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING HERE, BUT THIS NEEDLE AND THAT PILE OF GOOEY STUFF!
I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING TO BE FOUND HERE HUH.. WHAT'S THAT?
SLOWLY IN ANSWER TO THE FORCES OF THE FLUID, THE BLOB BEGAN TO MOVE STRETCHING LIKE THE FETID TENTACLES OF A HORRID SEA MONSTER..
NOTHING HERE I WONDER JUST WHAT DOC LARSON HAS UP HIS SLEEVE.

INTO THE SLIMY CREATURE OF EVIL FLOODED THE STRANGE ELIXER! THE SAME FLUID THAT GAVE IT LIFE
I HOPE IT WORKS AGAIN!
REDUCED THAT LIFE INTO A BLOB OF DRIPPING OOZE
YOU . YOU FIEND! WHAT HAVE YOU CREATED IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE!
THAT FOOL MUST HAVE INJECTED THE PROTO-PLASM!
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT REPORTER'S DEATH!
BUT.. BUT LISTEN TO ME. THIS DISCOVERY IS FOR GOOD, NOT EVIL!
HELP! DOCTOR LARSON HAS CREATED A MONSTER TO OVER-THROW MANKIND!
L LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
DON'T WORRY! IF LARSON'S RESPONSIBLE FOR TIM'S DEATH, HE'LL GET WHAT'S COMING TO HIM...
BETTER WATCH OUT, CHIEF, HE MAY HAVE SOME CREATURE WAITING FOR US!

THE FOOLS! BUT I COULD NEVER EXPLAIN TO THEM...THE ALL THINK I'M CREATING AN EVIL FORCE! I...I MUST HIDE UNTIL I CAN RETURN AND COMPLETE MY WORK..
HUNTED, FEARFUL OF MAN, THE SCIENTIST MUST HIDE LIKE AN ODIOUS REPTILE.
HE MUST HAVE PASSED THIS WAY!
IT...IT'S CREEPY HERE! I WISH WE COULD FIND HIM IN A HURRY! I'D LIKE TO GET OUT OF THESE WOODS.
ARE...AREN'T YOU GOING TO LOOK IN THE LOFT?
NAW... NOT ME! HE.. HE'S NOT THERE ANYWAY...
BUT FEAR AND FLIGHT TOOK THEIR TOLL, AND THE MIND OF THE FUGITIVE, ONCE FILLED WITH THE GOOD OF MANKIND, NOW SNAPPED...
HUNT ME, WILL THEY! NOW IT IS MY TURN TO HUNT! HEH! HEH!
NOW, FLUID, GIVE LIFE TO THIS MASS OF JELLY AND CREATE A CREATURE OF EVIL TO AVENGE MY WRONGS.
AND WREAK HAVOC ON MY OPPRESSORS

GROW! GROW!! BEAST OR DEVIL, APPEAR AND FOLLOW MY COMMANDS
BUT SOMETHING MIS-CARRIED! SLOWLY THE GRUESOME THING OF TERROR, CREATED TO DESTROY, APPEARED! THEN
N NO! NOT ME! I CREATED YOU! YOU MUST FOL-LOW MY COMMANDS! S-STOP!
IF I CAN ONLY INJECT THE FLUID IN HIM ARRGHH!
MASTERING ALL OF HIS DYING STRENGTH, LARSON PLUNGED THE HOLLOW NEEDLE OF THE HYPODERMIC INTO THE PUTRID BACK! BUT BEFORE HE COULD PRESS THE PLUNGER.. DEATH!

HIS MOUTH STILL WET WITH SWEET HUMAN BLOOD, THE MONSTER'S CANNIBAL BRAIN THIRSTS FOR MORE
AND MORE
SNORT!! SNORT!!
UHHHH.. UH.. UH..
...AND MORE
HELP!! HELP! SHRIEEK!
SNORT!! SNORT!!
NO! NO! YIIIII!
HE MUST BE IN THIS AREA! WE HAVE THE WHOLE PLACE SURROUNDED... IF YOU SEE HIM YELL AND SHOOT...
DON'T WORRY! HE WON'T GET AWAY!
WE'LL GET HIM TONIGHT!
HE'S COME THIS WAY, THERE'S HIS TRACK
LET'S GO! WE'VE GOT HIM ON THE RUN NOW
THERE THERE HE IS!!
UHH! HE'S HORRIBLE!

HE JUST WENT INTO THE GRAVEYARD!
THE FETID, BLOOD-BEDABBLED FIEND, ONCE FEARED, NOW FEARING, BACKS AWAY FROM THE SEARCHERS... UNTIL
WAIT! DON'T SHOOT! HE... HE'S DISINTEGRATING..
HE'S TURNING TO JELLY..
THE SAME PROCESSES WHICH CREATED HIM BEGIN THEIR INSIDIOUS DEGENERATION...
LOOK! THE MONSTER DESTROYED ITSELF ON TIM'S GRAVE..
TIM AVENGED HIS MURDER.. EVEN THO HE'LL NEVER KNOW IT!
WELL.. IT'S ALL OVER! WE CAN REST EASY AGAIN!
YES! IF NO ONE PRESSES THAT BEWITCHED NEEDLE!
THE END
AND SO THE ALL CONSUMING FIRE DESTROYS THE EVIL MAN-MADE LIFE, AND THE ASCENDING SMOKE ACTS AS A WARNING TO ALL WHO WOULD MEDDLE WITH THE SACRED FORCES OF NATURE...

FOLLOW US INTO THE HEART OF THE BLAZING DESERT WHERE EVIL LURKS IN THE BROODING SILENCE...AND

THE MUMMIES!

STUMBLING THROUGH THE ENDLESS WASTES OF THE EGYPTIAN DESERT, THREE ARCHEOLOGISTS COME UPON A **STARTLING** DISCOVERY...

I'D LIKE TO STUDY THESE SPECIMENS CAREFULLY!
SO WOULD I, WADE!

That EVENING...
WHERE DID WADE GO? I TOLD HIM NOT TO WANDER...

A WILD SHRIEK OF AGONY BRINGS FLASK AND HATCHER TO A SIGHT OF UNHOLY HORROR!
UGH-HH! THE ANTS ARE FEEDING ON HIS BODY!
FLASK! HATCHER! HELP ME! ARGGH-H!

WE CAN'T HELP HIM NOW!
NO! THEY MIGHT GET US, TOO!

WE COULDN'T SAVE HIM, COULD WE?
THERE WAS NO POINT IN SACRIFICING OURSELVES!

WE'LL LEAVE HIM HERE--AND BURY HIM IN THE MORNING!
THESE MUMMIES GIVE ME THE CREEPS!

LATE THAT EVE, DREADFUL FIGURES EMERGE FROM THE MUMMY CASES...
LOOK!

MY PEOPLE, OUR TOMB HAS BEEN DEFILED BY INTRUDERS! THEY HAVE LEFT A DECAYING CORPSE ON OUR ALTAR! THEY MUST BE DESTROYED!

BUT FIRST, WE MUST REMOVE THE BODY FROM THE ALTAR!
YES! TAKE IT AWAY!

SUDDENLY, A LOW MOAN ISSUES FROM THE GRUESOME IMAGE ON THE ALTAR...
AH-H! IT'S MOVING! THE POWER OF THE ANCIENT GODS HAVE RESTORED LIFE TO HIM!
...THEN... HE MUST BE ONE OF THE GODS! LET US BOW BEFORE HIM!!

WHAT IS IT YOU WISH, OH SACRED BEING?
I SHALL HELP YOU DESTROY THE INTRUDERS! THEY WATCHED THE ANTS DEVOUR ME... AND DID NOTHING!

WITHIN THE CAMP, THE MEN WERE UNABLE TO SLEEP...
WHAT A STRANGE NIGHT, HATCHER!
I'LL FEEL BETTER WHEN WE'RE OUT OF THIS PLACE!

YOU KNOW, I'D SWEAR THERE WAS SOMETHING...
LOOKS LIKE A BAND OF TRAVELLERS! NOW WHO WOULD BE--

LED BY THEIR REPULSIVE "GOD" THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD APPEAR OUT OF THE DARKNESS...
IT'S... IT'S WADE!! BUT HOW COULD HE BE--
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, FLASK!

YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE YOUR DOOM! YOU WATCHED ME DIE, AND NOW THE CURSE OF A DEFILED TOMB SHALL BRING YOU DEATH!
WADE! WE DIDN'T MEAN TO LET YOU DIE! WE WERE FRIGHTENED AND--

NO! NO! LET US GO!
YAAGH-H!
TAKE THEM!

ON THE WILD PANIC OF THEIR FLIGHT, THE MEN STUMBLE BLINDLY ABOUT...
YAAI-EEE!!
DON'T TOUCH ME! LET ME GO!

SHALL I HELP YOU, HATCHER?? HA! HA! HA!
THE ANTS! THE ANTS! ARRGGH-H!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME??
I HAVE HAD MY REVENGE! HE IS YOURS!

YOU CAN'T BURY ME ALIVE...IN THERE! NO! YAHH!

M-M-M-AARGH!!
YOU CAN OPEN IT... NOW!

ONE MOMENT OF UNBEARABLE TERROR--A SHRIEK OF AGONY...AND THEN FLASK'S SEVERED BODY HURTLES FORTH FROM THE CASE!
AN IRON MAIDEN! HA! HA!

OUR TOMB IS DEFILED NO LONGER! WE MUST RETURN TO THE BEYOND... TO DWELL IN ETERNITY!

ALONE WITH THE CHILLING ECHOES OF DEAD SOULS, WADE COMES TO A HORRIFYING CONCLUSION...
I--I CAN NEVER RETURN TO CIVILIZATION LOOKING AS I DO!!

ON THE BROODING SILENCE OF THE DESERT, A SINGLE FRIGHTFUL FIGURE WALKS SLOWLY TOWARDS THE WELCOME PEACE OF DEATH!
THE END